

ALBERT S. SHEPARD.

JUNE 14, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9979.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9979) granting an increase of pension to Albert S. Shepard, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill proposes to increase from \$6 to \$24 per month the pension of Albert S. Shepard, of Mansfield, Mass., late of Company B, First Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry, who served from August 7, 1862, to November 7, 1864, when he was honorably discharged.

August 6, 1891, the soldier filed a claim under the general law, which was rejected June 17, 1893. No ratable disability.

He filed another claim October 4, 1894, which was rejected April 26, 1895, on the same ground.

August 19, 1897, he filed another claim based on la grippe, causing disease and hemorrhage of lungs, and disease of heart and kidneys, loss of left forefinger, and stiffness of hand from erysipelas. He was pensioned from date of filing this last declaration at \$6 per month for injury of left hand, all the other alleged disabilities being rejected on the ground of "no ratable disability."

When examined at Taunton, Mass., September 1, 1897, he was rated six-eighths for hand and six-eighths for disease of throat.

Affidavits, dated April 15, 1898, by A. T. Robinson, M. D., and William G. Allen, M. D., of Mansfield, Mass., show that claimant is now sick, is confined to his bed nearly all the time, requiring constant care and nursing; that he is wholly unable to care for himself, and will, in Dr. Allen's opinion, live but a short time. Their testimony does not show with what disease or diseases soldier is affected, or whether his disability is permanent in its character.

The claimant is 62 years of age.

Claimant appears to be poor, but that is not very clearly shown by evidence.

His disability is not shown to be due to service, and he does not appear to have claimed pension under the general law.

This is a case of a soldier who is now unable to support himself and is very poor, is confined to his bed, wholly unable to care for himself, and requires constant care and nursing, but where the disabilities from which the soldier suffers are not of service origin.

Your committee is of the opinion that worthy soldiers in this condition shall not be permitted to become a public charge, and that an increase of the soldier's pension to \$24 per month is justified by the facts. This is following the precedent established in similar cases. The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 4, after the word "roll," insert "subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws."

In line 5, strike out the words "who served during the late war in" and insert in lieu thereof the words "late of."

In line 7, after the word "pension," insert "at the rate."

At the end of line 7, strike out the word "any" and insert in lieu thereof the word "the."

MANSFIELD, MASS., *April 15, 1898.*

This is to certify that Albert S. Shepard, of Mansfield, Bristol County, State of Massachusetts, and ex-soldier of the United States Army, is sick, confined to his bed most of the time, and requires constant care and nursing; is wholly unable to help himself.

A. T. ROBINSON, M. D.

APRIL 15, 1898.

BRISTOL, ss:

Then personally appeared the above-named A. T. Robinson, M. D., and made oath that the above statement signed by him is true.

[SEAL.]

ALFRED B. DAY,
Justice of the Peace.

MANSFIELD, *March 31, 1898.*

This is to certify that Mr. Albert S. Shepard, of Mansfield, county of Bristol, State of Massachusetts, formerly a soldier in the United States service, is now sick. He is confined to his bed nearly all the time, requiring constant care and nursing. He is wholly unable to care for himself, and, in my opinion, will live but a short time.

WM. G. ALLEN, M. D.

MANSFIELD, *March 31, 1898.*

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, *Bristol, ss:*

Personally appeared above-named William G. Allen, M. D., well known to me, and made solemn oath to the foregoing certificate by him subscribed.

Before me.

[SEAL.]

ERASTUS M. REED,
Special Judge of the First District Court of Bristol County.